



# ARUBA TODAY

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June 21, 2023

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Aruba's English news leader and ultimate guide to paradise

## Hunter Biden will plead guilty in a tax and gun case

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Joe Biden's son Hunter will plead guilty to federal tax offenses but avoid full prosecution on a separate gun charge in a deal with the Justice Department that likely spares him time behind bars.

Hunter Biden, 53, will plead guilty to the misdemeanor tax offenses as part of an agreement made public Tuesday. The agreement will also avert prosecution on a felony charge of illegally possessing a firearm as a drug user, as long as he adheres to conditions agreed to in court.

The deal ends a long-running Justice Department investigation into President Biden's second son, who has acknowledged struggling with addiction following the 2015 death of his brother Beau Biden. It also averts a trial that would have generated days or weeks of distracting headlines for a White House that has strenuously sought to keep its distance from the Justice Department.



Continued on Page 2

Hunter Biden, the son of President Joe Biden, speaks to guests during the White House Easter Egg Roll on the South Lawn of the White House, April 18, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

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# Hunter Biden will plead guilty in a tax and gun case

Continued from Front

The president, asked about the development at a meeting on another subject in California, said simply, "I'm very proud of my son." The White House counsel's office said in a statement that the president and first lady Jill Biden "love their son and support him as he continues to rebuild his life."

While the agreement requires the younger Biden to admit guilt, the deal is narrowly focused on tax and weapons violations rather than anything broader or tied to the Democratic president. Nonetheless, former President Donald Trump and other Republicans continued to try to use the case to shine an unflattering spotlight on Joe Biden and to raise questions about the independence of the Biden Justice Department.

Trump, challenging President Biden in the 2024 presidential race, likened the agreement to a "mere traffic ticket," adding, "Our system is BROKEN!"

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy compared the outcome to the Trump documents case now heading toward federal and said, "If you are the president's son, you get a sweetheart deal." Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, another presidential challenger, used the same

term.

Two people familiar with the investigation said the Justice Department would recommend 24 months of probation for the tax charges, meaning Hunter Biden will not face time in prison. But the decision to go along with any deal is up to the judge. The people were not authorized to speak publicly by name and spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

He is to plead guilty to failing to pay more than \$100,000 in taxes on over \$1.5 million in income in both 2017 and 2018, charges that carry a maximum possible penalty of a year in prison. The back taxes have since been paid, according to a person familiar with the investigation.

The gun charge states that Hunter Biden possessed a handgun, a Colt Cobra .38 Special, for 11 days in October 2018 despite knowing he was a drug user. The rarely filed count carries a maximum sentence of up to 10 years in prison, but the Justice Department said Hunter Biden had reached a pretrial agreement. This likely means as long as he adheres to the conditions, the case will be wiped from his record.

Christopher Clark, a lawyer for Hunter Biden, said in a statement that it was his understanding that the



President Joe Biden attends his granddaughter **Maisy Biden's commencement ceremony** with first lady **Jill Biden** and children **Hunter Biden** and **Ashley Biden** at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Monday, May 15, 2023.

Associated Press

five-year investigation had now been resolved.

"I know Hunter believes it is important to take responsibility for these mistakes he made during a period of turmoil and addiction in his life," Clark said. "He looks forward to continuing his recovery and moving forward."

The agreement comes as the Justice Department pursues perhaps the most consequential case in its history against Trump, the first former president to face federal criminal charges. The resolution of Hunter Biden's case comes just days after a 37-count indictment against former President Trump in relation to accusations of mishandling classified documents on his Florida estate. It was filed by a special counsel,

appointed by Attorney General Merrick Garland to avoid any potential conflict of interest in the Justice Department.

That indictment has nevertheless brought an onslaught of Republican criticism of "politicization" of the Justice Department. Meanwhile, congressional Republicans continue to pursue their own investigations into nearly every facet of Hunter Biden's business dealings, including foreign payments.

Rep. James Comer, the Republican chairman of the House Oversight Committee, said the younger Biden is "getting away with a slap on the wrist," despite investigations in Congress that GOP lawmakers say show — but have not yet provided evidence of — a pat-

tern of corruption involving the family's financial ties.

Democratic Sen. Chris Coons of Delaware, on the other hand, said the case was thoroughly investigated over five years by U.S. Attorney David Weiss, a Delaware prosecutor judge appointed by Trump. Resolution of the case, Coons said, "brings to a close a five-year investigation, despite the elaborate conspiracy theories spun by many who believed there would be much more to this."

"Hunter changes nothing," Newsom told The AP on Tuesday.

Misdemeanor tax cases aren't common, and most that are filed end with a sentence that doesn't include time behind bars, said Caroline Ciruolo, an attorney who served as head of the Justice Department's tax division from 2015 to 2017. An expected federal conviction "is not a slap on the wrist," she said. Gun possession charges that aren't associated with another firearm crime are also uncommon, said Keith Rosen, a past head of the criminal division in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Delaware. For people without a significant criminal history, the total number of multiple types of illegal possession cases filed every year in Delaware amounts to a handful, he said. □



The Supreme Court is seen on April 21, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected an appeal on behalf of some U.S. veterans

who want disability benefits because they were exposed to radiation while responding to a Cold War-

## Supreme Court turns away veterans who seek disability benefits over 1966 hydrogen bomb accident

era hydrogen bomb accident in Spain.

The justices not did comment in turning away an appeal from Victor Skaar, an Air Force veteran in his mid-80s.

Skaar, of Nixa, Missouri, filed class-action claims seeking benefits for him and others who say they became ill from exposure to radiation during the recovery and cleanup of the undetonated bombs at the accident site in Palomares, a village

in southern Spain, in 1966.

A federal appeals court rejected the class-action claims. The Supreme Court's action leaves that ruling in place.

The Justice Department, arguing against high-court review, noted that Congress last year enacted legislation that expands eligibility for benefits for many Palomares veterans. But the department also acknowledged that Skaar is not covered by the leg-

islation.

Skaar's lawyers told the Supreme Court that he suffers from leukopenia, described as a condition that can be caused by exposure to radiation. Skaar also has had skin cancer, now in remission, the lawyers wrote in a court filing.

He was among 1,400 U.S. service members who were sent to Palomares to help clean up what has been called the worst radiation accident in U.S. history. □

# Outgoing CDC director says resignation spurred by sense of accomplishment and exhaustion

By **MIKE STOBBE**  
AP Medical Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The outgoing head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Tuesday her reasons for stepping down were complicated, driven in part by a desire to take a break from the frenetic pace of the job during a pandemic.

Dr. Rochelle Walensky surprised many in public health circles last month by announcing her departure after two years and five months — one of the shortest tenures for a CDC director in recent decades. She resigned as the pandemic's national public health emergency was winding down.

"I did what I came to do — which was get us through the darkest days of a pandemic," she said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Walensky, 54, described her time at the agency as intense, but stopped short of saying she was burned out. She said she had looked for a quiet moment to withdraw from a job that gave her a sense of pride and accomplishment but also led to criticism, protests outside her home and threats of violence.

"That (the threats) wasn't the straw that broke the camel's back," she emphasized. But is also wasn't something she expected when she took the job — her first time running a government public health agency.

"I never expected that when I am trying to run to be an aid to somebody, that they would actually be turned off by my very existence," Walensky added. She spent the first year of the pandemic treating COVID-19 patients as an infectious disease doctor at Massachusetts General Hospital. She became CDC director in January 2021, on the first day of the Biden administration. It was near the beginning of a national COVID-19 vaccination campaign that was expected to turn the tide,

but saw additional waves of illness and death as new versions of the coronavirus emerged.

There were also a variety of other outbreaks and crises, including an unexpected mpox outbreak last year.

Counting her time at Massachusetts General during the pandemic, "it was 3 1/2 years at that pace — an extraordinary pace," she said. Walensky's last day at CDC is June 30. She does not have a new job or other role lined up, she said, saying she wanted to spend some time with her family, living at a slower pace.

At CDC, she has taken fire, mainly — but not only — from Republican legislators and critics of vaccination and masking campaigns. That was on display last week, when a GOP-led congressional subcommittee questioned and criticized Walensky about her tenure and accused her of misleading the public.

"Your leadership has fractured the American public's confidence in the CDC," said Rep. John Joyce (R-Pa). But she was also cheered by other legislators, mostly Democrats, who said she helped safely reopen schools, promote lifesaving vaccinations and build up the agency's ability to forecast new outbreaks.

Walensky herself has acknowledged problems during her tenure. One example: In the spring of 2021, early in her tenure, Walensky said fully vaccinated people could stop wearing masks in many settings, only to reverse course as the then-new delta variant spread.

But the initial statement was perceived by many as an attempt to "game us or push us (into getting vaccinated) in ways that were not quite fair," said Gil Eyal, a Columbia University sociology professor who studies the mistrust of experts.

Walensky said she was extremely proud of what the CDC and other public health workers had accomplished in the last couple of

years, citing the 676 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine given to Americans. She also initiated a reorganization of the 12,000-employee health agency in Atlanta.

Last week, the White House announced it had chosen Dr. Mandy Cohen, a former North Carolina health official, to be the next CDC director. Walensky said she has known Cohen for years and has had several conversations recently about the job and the challenges ahead.

Jeff Levi, professor of public health policy and management at George Washington University, said her earlier-than-expected departure from the job is un-



Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, speaks during an interview with The Associated Press, Tuesday, June 20, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

derstandable.

"She walked into a horrible situation and 2½ years in a job like this, with this intensity of both the public health

and political pressures, is an immense amount of time," Levi said. "She is totally entitled to want to be moving on." □

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# Judge strikes down Arkansas ban on gender-affirming care for transgender minors

By **ANDREW DeMILLO**  
Associated Press

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)** — A federal judge struck down Arkansas' first-in-the-nation ban on gender-affirming care for children as unconstitutional Tuesday, the first ruling to overturn such a prohibition as a growing number of Republican-led states adopt similar restrictions.

U.S. District Judge Jay Moody issued a permanent injunction against the Arkansas law, which would have prohibited doctors from providing gender-affirming hormone treatment, puberty blockers or surgery to anyone under 18.

Arkansas' law, which Moody temporarily blocked in 2021, also would have prohibited doctors from referring patients elsewhere for such care.

In his order, Moody ruled that the prohibition violated the due process and equal protection rights of transgender youth and families. He said the law also violated the First Amendment rights of medical providers by prohibiting them from referring patients elsewhere. "Rather than protecting children or safeguarding medical ethics, the evidence showed that the prohibited medical care



**Dylan Brandt speaks at a news conference outside the federal courthouse in Little Rock, Ark., July 21, 2021.**

Associated Press

improves the mental health and well-being of patients and that, by prohibiting it, the state undermined the interests it claims to be advancing," Moody wrote in his ruling.

Republican lawmakers in Arkansas enacted the ban in 2021, overriding a veto by former GOP Gov. Asa Hutchinson. Hutchinson, who left office in January, said the law went too far by cutting off treatments for children currently receiving such care.

The ruling affects only the Arkansas ban but may carry implications for the fates of similar prohibitions, or discourage attempts to enact them, in other states.

At least 19 other states have enacted laws restricting or banning gender-affirming care for minors following Arkansas' law, and federal judges have temporarily blocked similar bans in Alabama and Indiana. Three states have banned or restricted the care through regulations or administra-

five orders.

Florida's law goes beyond banning the treatments for youth, by also prohibiting the use of state money for gender-affirming care and placing new restrictions on adults seeking treatment. A federal judge has blocked Florida from enforcing its ban on three children who have challenged the law. Children's hospitals around the country have faced harassment and threats of violence for providing such care. The state has argued

that the prohibition is within its authority to regulate the medical profession. People opposed to such treatments for children argue they are too young to make such decisions about their futures. □

Major medical groups, including the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics, oppose the bans and experts say treatments are safe if properly administered.

The state is likely to appeal Moody's decision to the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which last year upheld the judge's temporary order blocking the law.

Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Hutchinson's successor, in March signed legislation attempting to effectively reinstate Arkansas' ban by making it easier to sue providers of gender-affirming care for children. That law doesn't take effect until later this summer. A roughly two-week trial before Moody included testimony from one of the transgender youths challenging the state's ban. The teenager testified in October that the hormone therapy he has received has transformed his life and that the ban would force him to leave the state. □

# West Virginia cash-for-worker program adds 5th destination



**The New River Gorge Bridge is reflected in the water as seen from Fayette Station, Oct. 9, 2019, in Fayetteville, W.Va.**

Associated Press

By **JOHN RABY**  
Associated Press  
**CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)**

— A program offering cash and free outdoor adventures to remote workers to

move to West Virginia with the hope of offsetting population losses has added a fifth destination where out-of-state workers can apply to live.

The public-private program Ascend West Virginia said Tuesday that applications are being accepted for the scenic New River Gorge region in the southern part of the state that encompasses the nation's newest national park. The New River Gorge Bridge near Fayetteville is the site of a festival every October where thrill-seekers parachute off the 876-foot-high (267-meter) span.

Under the remote worker

program, successful applicants will receive \$12,000 along with free passes to indulge in whitewater rafting, golf, rock climbing, horseback riding, skiing and ziplining. The full relocation package is valued at more than \$20,000.

Applications also are being accepted to four areas previously announced since the program launched in April 2021: the northern college town of Morgantown, the Greenbrier Valley in the southeastern corner of the state, the Elkins area in the northeastern part of the state, and the Eastern Panhandle.

The program has wel-

comed nearly 300 remote workers to the state with a 98% retention rate and is expected to bring more than 1,000 remote workers over the next six years, Ascend said in a statement.

"The growth of this program is a testament to the increased interest and positive buzz around West Virginia," said Chelsea Ruby, cabinet secretary of the West Virginia Department of Tourism. "The residents of our mountain towns are some of the most warm and welcoming people you'll find anywhere in the nation. They're eagerly awaiting these new folks to move in." □

# Days of sweltering heat, power cuts in northern India overwhelm hospitals as death toll climbs

By **RAJESH KUMAR SINGH, PIYUSH NAGPAL and SIBI ARASU**

**Associated Press**

**BALLIA, India (AP)** — A scorching heat wave in two of India's most populous states has overwhelmed hospitals, filled a morgue to capacity and disrupted power, forcing staff to use books to cool patients, as officials investigate a death toll that has reached nearly 170.

In the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, 119 people have died from heat-related illnesses over the last several days while neighboring Bihar state reported 47 fatalities, according to local news reports and health officials.

"So many people are dying from the heat that we are not getting a minute's time to rest. On Sunday, I carried 26 dead bodies," Jitendra Kumar Yadav, a hearse driver in Deoria town, 110 kilometers (about 70 miles) from Ballia, told The Associated Press.

Other residents said they were scared of going outside after midmorning.

The largest hospital in Ballia district in Uttar Pradesh is



**People suffering from heat related ailments crowd the district hospital in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh state, India, Monday, June 19, 2023.**

unable to accommodate more patients. Officials said the morgue was full after 54 people, all of whom were elderly suffering from various health issues, died during the heat wave. Some families were asked to take the bodies of their relatives home.

On Sunday, the state health minister, Brajesh Pathak, said a two-member team

will look into what caused the large number of deaths and investigate how many of them are directly related to heat.

While northern regions of India are known for sweltering heat during the summer months, temperatures have been consistently above normal, according to the Indian Meteorological Department, with highs reach-

ing 43.5 degrees Celsius (110 degrees Fahrenheit). A heat wave is declared in India if temperatures are at least 4.5 C above normal, or if the temperature is above 45 C (113 F).

"We have been issuing heat wave warnings for the past few days," said Atul Kumar Singh, a scientist at the IMD.

Despite the warnings, gov-

ernment officials did not ask people to brace for the heat until Sunday, when the death toll began to increase.

Adding to the heat stress are consistent power outages across the region, leaving people with no running water, fans or air conditioners.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the government was taking measures to ensure an uninterrupted power supply. He urged citizens to cooperate and use electricity judiciously.

"Every village and every city should receive adequate power supply during this scorching heat. If any faults occur, they should be promptly addressed," he said Friday night in a statement.

Inside the Ballia district hospital, the chaotic scenes were reminiscent of the coronavirus pandemic, with families and doctors scrambling as many patients required urgent attention. The corridors smelled of urine, garbage and medical waste, and hospital walls were stained with betel leaf spit. □

**Associated Press**

# Belarus human rights activist gets 7-year prison term

By **YURAS KARMANAU**

**Associated Press**

**TALLINN, Estonia (AP)** — A court in Belarus convicted a prominent human rights activist Tuesday of "inciting social hatred" for her work documenting alleged police abuses against political opposition groups.

The Minsk City Court sentenced Nasta Loika, 34 to seven years in prison. She rejected the charges as trumped up and said during her closed-door trial that police used an electroshock weapon on her during her arrest.

Loika, who has spent nine months in custody, also said that she was once

kept in the prison yard for eight hours without warm clothes in freezing winter temperatures and became gravely ill.

She protested her treatment to the United Nations, and the U.N. human rights watchdog demanded last week that Belarusian authorities ensure her access to independent medical care. Loika's prosecution came amid a relentless crackdown on dissent in Belarus, a Russian ally which President Alexander Lukashenko has led with an iron fist since 1994.

Viasna, a Belarusian human rights organization, denounced Loika's con-

viction and sentencing as a politically motivated punishment for her human rights activities and demanded her immediate release.

The organization said the charges against Loika were based on a description of a police crackdown on leftist groups that was contained in a report she wrote. Interpreting the law against inciting social hatred to apply in such a situation violated international legal standards, the human rights organization said.

Viasna representative Pavel Sapelka said Loika "has passed through all the circles of hell like other Belaru-



**This undated handout photo released by the Viasna Human Rights Centre shows human rights activist Nasta Loika pictured in a undisclosed place.**

**Associated Press**

sian political prisoners." Belarus was swept by massive protests triggered by Lukashenko's August 2020 reelection in an presidential contest that was widely seen at home and in the West as fraudulent.

Authorities responded to

demonstrations with a fierce crackdown that included over 35,000 people arrested, thousands beaten by police while in custody and dozens of nongovernmental organizations and independent media shut down. □

## Rwanda genocide suspect to claim asylum in South Africa, lawyer says, complicating extradition

By **GERALD IMRAY**

**Associated Press**

**CAPE TOWN, South Africa**

**(AP)** — One of the last remaining suspects accused of orchestrating the brutal massacres of the Rwandan genocide nearly 30 years ago plans to apply for political asylum in South Africa, his lawyer said Tuesday.

The U.N. tribunal charged Kayishema in 2001 with being a central figure in the slaughter of more than 2,000 people seeking refuge at a church.

Now 62 years old, he was arrested last month in the small town of Paarl near Cape Town, South Africa, having been on the run for half his life.

More than 800,000 people were killed when militias made up mainly of members of Rwanda's Hutu ethnic group turned on their Tutsi neighbors. The killings, an attempt to wipe out the minority Tutsis, were triggered on April 6, 1994, when a plane carrying Rwandan President Juvé-



**Fulgence Kayishema sits in the Magistrate's Court in Cape Town, South Africa, Friday, May 26, 2023.**

nal Habyarimana, a Hutu, was shot down, killing him. Kayishema is accused of being one of the leaders of a Hutu mob that killed Tutsi men, women and children who were hiding in the

Catholic church to escape the sudden eruption of violence. Kayishema and others tried to burn down the church and, when that failed, they used a bulldozer to smash it down,

crushing to death the Tutsis inside, according to the charges against him. Ultimately, more than 2,000 people were killed in and around the church, the genocide indictment

against Kayishema says. The U.N. tribunal wants Kayishema to be sent to one of the seats of the tribunal in Arusha, Tanzania, and then to Rwanda for trial, but it's unclear how long it would take for South Africa to extradite him.

Following his May 24 arrest, Kayishema also was charged in South Africa with 54 counts of immigration offenses and fraud. He allegedly used fake names and other falsified information to acquire documents to enter and live in South Africa, where he had been for at least 20 years, according to the charges filed by prosecutors.

He appeared in court Tuesday for that case. The proceedings could have delayed his extradition even if Kayishema did not intend to seek asylum, a move that requires further proceedings.

His lawyer, Juan Smuts, told reporters Tuesday that Kayishema left Rwanda in 1994 "out of fear for his life." □

**Associated Press**

## Taliban carry out 2nd known public execution in Afghanistan

By **MUNIR AHMED**

**Associated Press**

**ISLAMABAD (AP)** — Af-

ghanistan's Taliban rulers Tuesday carried out what is believed to be the second confirmed public execution since the religious group took power in 2021, according to the country's Supreme Court.

The court had sentenced to death a man identified only as Ajmal from the capital Kabul who was found guilty of murdering five people in two separate incidents last year.

The execution was carried out with an assault rifle by the son of Siad Wali, one of five men killed by Ajmal. It took place outside a mosque near the offices of the provincial governor in eastern Laghman province according to Islamic law, the high court said in a statement.

Relatives of the four other men who were killed by Ajmal witnessed the execution. The latest public execution is likely to draw criticism from the international community. It comes just a month after the United Nations in a report strongly criticized the Taliban for carrying out public executions, lashings and stonings since seizing power, and called on the country's rulers to halt such practices. In May, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan said in the past six months alone, 274 men, 58 women and two boys were publicly flogged in Afghanistan.

The Taliban-run Supreme Court in Kabul said when the case against Ajmal was brought to the government's attention, it thoroughly examined and investigated and said three

different courts eventually upheld the death sentence.

The court said the final approval for the execution was ordered by Taliban supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada after supervising a separate probe into the murder case.

Akhundzada was named the Taliban leader in 2016 after a U.S. airstrike in Pakistan killed his predecessor, Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour. It was the second known public execution since the Taliban takeover, even though rights groups and the international community have opposed such extreme punishments.

The first was in December last year, when Taliban authorities punished an Afghan convicted of murdering another man. The execution was carried out with an assault rifle by the

victim's father in western Farah province before hundreds of spectators and many top Taliban officials. During the previous Taliban rule of the country in the late 1990s, the group regularly carried out public executions, floggings and stonings of people convicted of

crimes in Taliban courts.

After they overran Afghanistan in 2021, the Taliban initially promised to allow for women's and minority rights. Instead, they later restricted rights and freedoms, including imposing a ban on girl's education beyond the sixth grade. □



**Taliban fighters gather in the late afternoon near Sakhi Shah-e Mardan Shrine in Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday, June 19, 2023.**  
**Associated Press**

## The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.



Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the

leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by

Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who

then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from

around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short life-span: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant. □

Sources: Etnia Nativa & gold-mineranch.com.

## Government has no say in reservation fee for palapas

(Oranjestad)—Recently, many of our visitors have expressed concern and confusion about the price that hotels charge to reserve palapas on public beaches. Aruba Tourism Authority informed local media this week that they are currently evaluating if there are better options, like planting coconut trees

or installing more palapas.

According to local news sources, Aruba Tourism Authority made an investment to restore and fix the palapas. Minister of Tourism, Mr. Dangui Oduber took note of comments on social media. He said that the price that is charged to tourists is not charged by the

government nor ATA, but rather, it is charged by the hotels who manage the palapas.

The minister indicated that he cannot say what the hotels' policies are for palapas. He thinks there are two options, one is to put palapas on the beaches frequented by the locals, or

planting coconut trees. □



## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjesad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

### Emergency services

Even though most people don't even want to think about having to contact emergency services—especially not while on their vacation, it is still important to know what number to dial in case of the unlikely event of an accident or severe incident.

Police: 100

Police Tipline: 11141  
Ambulance: 911  
Fire Dept: 115  
Oranjestad: HOH hospital: +297-527-4000  
San Nicolas: ImSan: +297-527-8833

### Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A and B are most commonly found in homes and establishments around the island.

### Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

### Supermarket hours

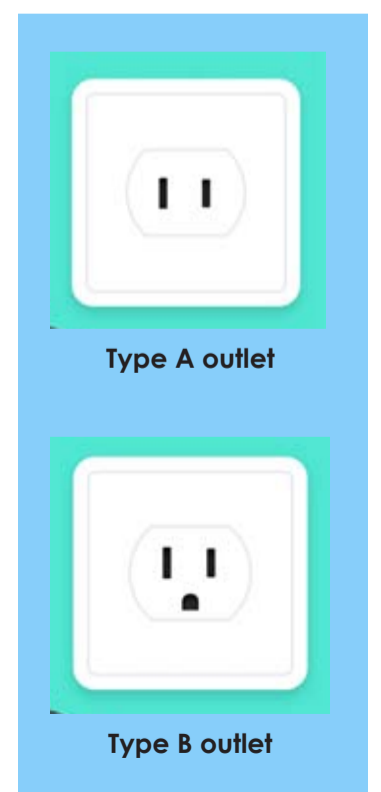
Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

### Taxis

Prices for taxi fair are set by the Department of Public Traffic and are based on destination rather than mileage. Most taxis can take up to five passengers, but this may vary depending on the vehicle. Taxis are pretty much always available and you can ever hire one for \$45 an hour.

### Safety

Aruba is one of the safest islands in the Caribbean, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe. □



# Today is a great day for a visit to King Fred & Princess Diana Restaurant!



This unique restaurant situated in Aruba's only Dutch windmill is definitely worth a visit. With the essence of the Netherlands combined with the warmth of Aruba, you are in for a real Royal treat.

### Breakfast with Princess Diana

Do you want to start your day with the most mouth-watering pancakes? What are you waiting for? Take a stroll until the end of the strip where you will find the one and only Dutch windmill on the island! Walk in, take a

seat and have yourself a Royal treat. The staff will welcome you with the biggest smile and make sure that you feel right at home. There you can choose from a great variety of Dutch pancakes with fresh fruits, sweet & salty pancakes or just regular ones which you can personalize with an extra side of fresh fruits, bacon or just plain yoghurt with the option to add banana to the yoghurt. And for the kids there is a special option of 5 little smiley pancakes with sprinkles. Combine your breakfast with a hot and strong coffee of choice: from



Dutch coffee, espresso or double espresso to a nice and rich latte or cappuccino. Also tea and hot chocolate with whipped cream are on the famous menu. Or, you can just go wild and ask for one of the most delicious Special Coffees. Cold drinks are also available! Frappe, Iced coffee, sodas and juices, but also mimosas, prosecco and of course, Bloody Mary to wipe out the bloody hangover from the night before.

### Dinner with King Fred

From 5pm - 9.30pm you can take your wildest ride with the most popular chicken dishes on the island! Kick start the night with a bowl of soup or an appetizer to tickle your palate. Chicken with foie gras ravioli, chicken cheeser or King Fred's famous chicken salad with apple, walnuts, parmesan cheese and sweet & sour dressing are part of the appetizer menu.



### Main dishes

King Fred is all about chicken and chicken only. Not just chicken but, Fred's chicken! On the menu you have an array of chicken dishes like Drunk chicken, prepared in red wine and served with mashed potatoes and mushrooms; Chicken parmesan and pasta smothered in a rich tomato sauce; Indian chicken served with rice, potatoes, green beans & curry masala sauce; Italian chicken pot pie with spinach, mushrooms and creamy Italian sauce under a puff pastry sheet; chicken truffle tagliatelle pasta with chicken and creamy truffle sauce; a juicy Chicken burger prepared with our homemade spice mix on a slice of brioche bread with bacon strips, onions, mushrooms, lettuce, Gouda cheese, piccalilli mayonnaise, French fries & coleslaw.

It's been said that Fred's chickens are the ones to die for!

Compliment your dish with a side of your choice and voila..!

For the meat and fish lovers, ask your waiter for the options because we love you too.

### Drinks

The drink menu is carefully selected with the most popular cocktails, wines and beers.

After dinner you can enjoy one of the delicious special made coffees or after dinner cocktails, or you can hop upstairs to Fransjes Bar by Frans, who is a well-known bartender in the Aruban hospitality industry. He will serve you cold drinks and a great view for a reasonable price.

Make your reservations now! King Fred & Princess Diana opens from Wednesday – Sunday from 8am – 1pm for breakfast and from 5pm – 9.30pm for dinner! Situated in Aruba's only Dutch windmill, walking distance from all the major hotels.

King Fred & Princess Diana Restaurant is the best place to end your vacation! ☐

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**Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at La Quinta Beach Resort**

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure to recognize Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. These Ambassadors were respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels



are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor ( 10> years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Goodwill Ambassador ( 20> years consecutively visiting Aruba)

years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Emerald Ambassador ( 35> years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors Mr. Thomas & Mrs. Julia Ciesielski from Florida, United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the La Quinta Beach Resort bestowed the certificate to the honorees, presented them with memorable gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their best-loved vacation destination, and as their home-away-from-home.

On behalf of the Aruba

Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island".

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by Mr. & Mrs. Ciesielski were:

Aruba's turquoise blue waters.

Aruba's warm & friendly people.

The resort's staff and all the great people we have met throughout the years.

"Aruba is just gorgeous!"

The unlimited restaurants and shops. □

**Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Costa Linda Beach Resort**



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure to recognize Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. These Ambassadors were respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10> years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Goodwill Ambassador (20> years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Emerald Ambassador (35> years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors Mrs. Belén Martínez & her wonderful son Richard Viera from San Juan, Puerto Rico. Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba

Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Costa Linda Beach Resort bestowed the certificate to the honorees, presented them with memorable gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their best-loved vacation destination, and as their home-away-from-home.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island".

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by Belén & Richard were:

"The island of Aruba is fabulous"

The resort staff is incredibly nice.

Aruba's safety.

Aruba has a variety of restaurants to choose from. "All the above mentioned!" □

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## Island Cabinet of Curiosities

Episode CCXI - 211

Through its weekly episodes, Island Insight offers educational content that sheds light on various aspects of the island's heritage. By sharing this knowledge, the platform encourages readers to engage with Aruba's unique cultural landscape and gain a more authentic island state of mind.

During this episode we want to refer to the origins of museums that can be traced back to the cabinets of curiosity, also known as Wunderkammer, which emerged during the Renaissance period. These were private collections that housed a wide variety of objects, including natural specimens, scientific instruments, artwork, and cultural artifacts. These collections were often assembled by scholars, scientists, and wealthy individuals who sought to acquire knowledge about the natural world. Cabinets of curiosity were the precursors to modern museums and represented the early integration of scientific and cultural objects.

The Age of Enlightenment witnessed the establishment of public museums and scientific institutions as part of the broader movement to promote education and intellectual development. Museums played a crucial role in the process of collecting, classifying, and categorizing natural specimens and them served as repositories of scientific specimens, allowing researchers to compare and analyze them to gain insights into the natural world. As scientific knowledge expanded and diversified, specialized museums began to emerge and each museum represented the particular thoughts, interests, and advancements of its era and country. In addition to their function as repositories of scientific knowledge, museums have increasingly embraced an interactive and educational role and are in continuing evolution.

It's fascinating to see how museums have transformed and adapted to new roles and perspectives over time to extend their social function beyond safeguarding the past and as it sought to promote inspiring and meaningful experiences for visitors.

In the context of Aruba from 1994, a private museum called Etnia Nativa took the initiative to contribute to the island's cultural tourism while introduce research through compelling exhibits and offers dynamic ed-



ucational programs, conveying important heritage messages alongside ancestral knowledge and is a place where individuals with diverse interests can find answers to their intellectual, social, and entertainment needs.

The staging and presentation of objects, art, texts, images, and other resources within the museum create a vibrant and immersive experience. As they journey through each space, they encounter different scenarios that invite interaction with the exhibited objects and artworks. Although the duration of the visit may be limited, the impact of the experience is such that it becomes a memorable and unique event for the visitor. By sharing private exhibitions, the museum aims to narrate the authentic history of the island, going beyond the surface level and delving into the depth and richness of its cultural heritage.

The content of the exhibitions motivates to share the ancestral knowledge they have acquired through the museum experience. This act of sharing becomes an integral part of the museum's mission, as it encourages the transmission of cultural traditions and fosters a deeper understanding and appreciation of the island's history. By combining engaging presentation techniques, meaningful objects and artworks, and a focus on authentic storytelling, Etnia Nativa creates an environment where visitors can connect with the past, gain insights into the present, and carry the experiences forward as they continue to explore and share their newfound knowledge and appreciation for the island's heritage.

The unique insular museum breaks away from traditional exhibition models by actively engaging visitors in direct communication even before they enter the building. By doing so, it sets the stage for an immersive, educational and participatory experience right from the start.

It signals to visitors that they are about to embark on a journey of discovery and learning, inviting them to actively participate in the museum experience rather than being passive recipients of information.

The owner, director, and guide of this unique museum, is a multi-talented individual renowned for their skills as an engraver, clay artist, amateur anthropologist and newspapers columnist. Their artistic practice involves a captivating fusion of native imagery and indigenous design, often expressed through simple geometric "glyphs" that poignantly reflects people's relationship with the environment. By weaving indigenous techniques and spiritual teachings into their work, they aim to honor and preserve cultural traditions.

Etnia Nativa sounds like an incredible cabinet of curiosities for plunged oneself in the rich history and cultural heritage of Aruba. The combination of a beautiful property, guided tours by the owner, and a diverse array of artworks, objects, artifacts, and historical furniture dating back to 1640 creates a captivating experience for visitors. The owner's firsthand explanations and insights add a personal touch, enriching the experience and fostering a connection with the island's history.

Moreover, a visit to Etnia Nativa contributes to the conservation efforts of Aruba. By supporting this local initiative, visitors actively participate in the preservation of this fragile travel destination.

To arrange a visit, interested individuals can reach out to Etnia Nativa through email at [etnianativa03@gmail.com](mailto:etnianativa03@gmail.com) or via WhatsApp (no calls) at +297 592 2702. This allows for personalized communication and ensures a smooth planning process for a truly memorable and educational experience. □



# What to do in case of a hurricane emergency on Aruba (2nd edition)

(Oranjestad)—On June 2nd, we published the Aruban Health Department's (DVG) first edition of hurricane season guidelines. Once again, they have recently published their second edition containing more emergency guideline in the rare case of a serious hurricane emergency on the island. At a time when official institutions such as the Government and the Disaster Management Bureau inform us that there is a high possibility of experiencing a hurricane in the coming days, it is important for us to continue with our preparations.

## 72 hours or 3 days before the hurricane's arrival:

- Prepare a bag in which all essential materials and important items are packed. Consider this as your emergency bag.
- Gather important documents such as passports, medical histories, or necessary medications, and store them in plastic Ziploc bags inside the emergency bag.
- Create or purchase a first-aid kit consisting of items such as band-aids, antiseptic solution, gauze, bandages, and pain relievers like paracetamol or voltaren, as well as other items that may be needed for minor injuries that don't require immediate medical attention.
- If you or any family member takes daily medication, make sure you have enough to last for a few days. Place these medications in Ziploc bags and store them in the emer-

gency bag. Do the same if someone in the family uses a daily medical device.

- Pack some snacks and bottled water in the emergency bag.
- Assign a responsible person to have and carry the emergency bag at all times.
- Ensure you have a flashlight with batteries and a whistle with you.
- Sit down and create an evacuation plan in case your family needs to leave their location. Don't forget to include plans for your pets.

## 48 hours or 2 days before the hurricane's arrival:

Prepare a space in your home where your family can stay during the hours when the hurricane is passing. This space should preferably be an area with few or no windows and doors.

- Make arrangements for your pets in this space.
- Fill your car with gasoline or diesel.
- Ensure you have enough drinking water for each family member (2 liters per person).
- Purchase some canned food and snacks (make sure you have a manual can opener).
- If you have perishable food in the refrigerator, set the temperature to the maximum capacity and avoid opening it regularly.

## 24 hours or 1 day before the hurricane's arrival:

- Secure doors and windows by nailing or



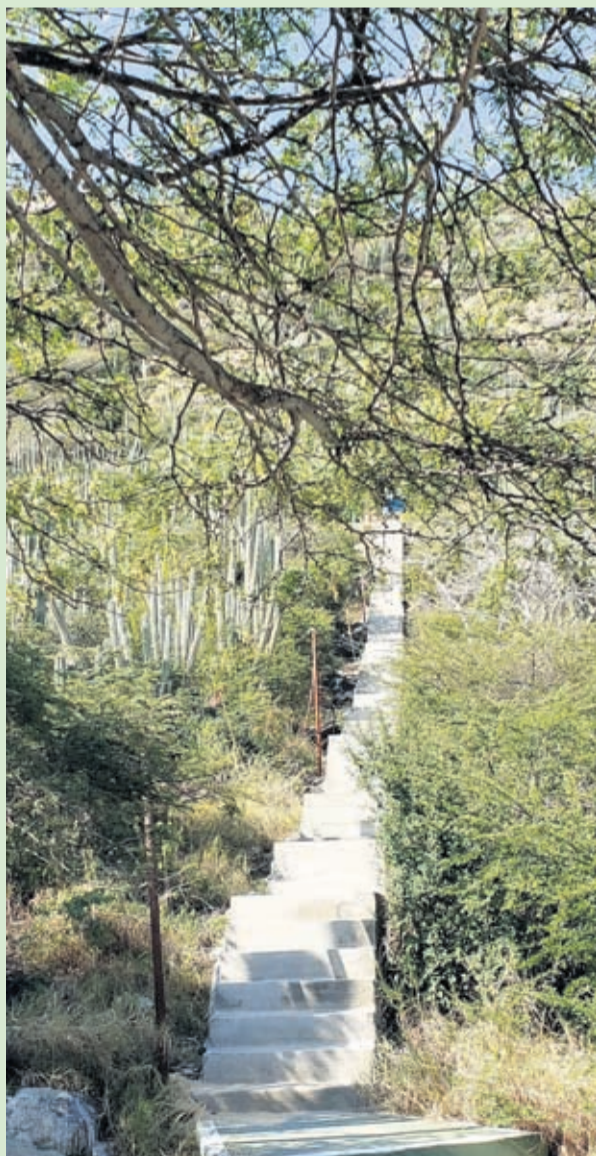
covering them with plywood or some other strong material.

- Charge your phones and other essential electronic devices.
- Review the evacuation plan.
- Prepare both electronic and non-electronic games and activities to entertain your family during the following hours and days.

Stay tuned for edition nr. 3, where the Department of Public Health, in collaboration with the Disaster Management Bureau, will provide further instructions on what to do during and after a hurricane has passed.

For more information, please like our Facebook page "Directie Volksgezondheid DVG Aruba," follow us on Instagram "directie\_volksgezondheid\_aruba," visit our website [www.dvg.aw](http://www.dvg.aw), call us at 5224200, or email us at [servicio@dvg.aw](mailto:servicio@dvg.aw). □

# Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill



(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.

located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Jamanota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park. The staircase that run on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the government decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see.

The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day. □



**CROSSWORD**

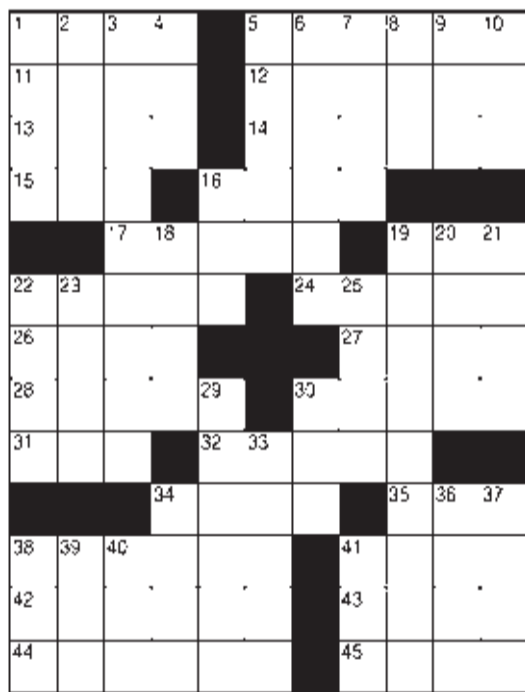
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Spigots
  - 5 Takes in eagerly
  - 11 Lotion additive
  - 12 Large lizard
  - 13 "Das Kapital" author
  - 14 Burrowing rodent
  - 15 PC key
  - 16 Fisherman's hope
  - 17 Merge
  - 19 Bowl-shaped pan
  - 22 Honshu home
  - 24 Was vocal
  - 26 Tel —
  - 27 Folk learning
  - 28 Record material
  - 30 Car type
  - 31 Sports drink suffix
  - 32 Scientist Newton
  - 34 Winter blanket
  - 35 Bounty letters
  - 38 Burrowing rodent
  - 41 Throw in the towel
  - 42 Ventilate
  - 43 Bruins' sch.
- DOWN**
- 1 Un-exciting
  - 2 Weary word
  - 3 Large rodent
  - 4 Kinsey topic
  - 5 Put a cap on
  - 6 Some marbles
  - 7 Undiluted
  - 8 Friend of Frodo
  - 9 First numero
  - 10 Light touch
  - 16 Storage spot
  - 18 Blue hue
  - 19 Heavy rodent
  - 20 Gumbo base
  - 21 Acute
  - 22 Coffee, in slang
  - 23 Gung-ho
  - 25 "Not guilty," for one
  - 29 Police station event
  - 30 Spotted
  - 33 Catego-rizes
  - 34 "Get lost!"
  - 36 Kunis of "Black Swan"
  - 37 Order to Spot
  - 38 Argon or ozone
  - 39 Motor need
  - 40 Debate side
  - 41 Status —



Yesterday's answer

- 19 Heavy rodent
- 20 Gumbo base
- 21 Acute
- 22 Coffee, in slang
- 23 Gung-ho
- 25 "Not guilty," for one
- 29 Police station event
- 30 Spotted
- 33 Catego-rizes
- 34 "Get lost!"
- 36 Kunis of "Black Swan"
- 37 Order to Spot
- 38 Argon or ozone
- 39 Motor need
- 40 Debate side
- 41 Status —



6-21

A XYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-21

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

QRNO HXV DYB PRN TNYP  
LVNYPUXOY XG HXVCYNWG  
DOI XPRNCY, HXV UOKUPN PRN  
TNYP DOYQNCY, DOSNWD  
TDYYNPP

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I WANT TO SING LIKE THE BIRDS SING, NOT WORRYING ABOUT WHO HEARS OR WHAT THEY THINK. — RUMI

# Millennial Money: Should you financially support adult kids?



In this June 15, 2018, file photo, cash is fanned out from a wallet in North Andover, Mass.

Associated Press

By ELIZABETH AYOOLA of NerdWallet

Some parents will tell you firsthand there's no expiration date on this raising kids gig. For some, that means they extend financial help to their kids into adulthood. When I was 21 and got into a master's program at a college of my dreams, my mom swooped in to help me pay for my degree. Many parents have been kind enough to do this and more. When I say "many," I'm backed up by a 2023 survey from Savings.com that found 45% of parents with a child 18 or older spend an average of over \$1,400 per month supporting their kids financially, excluding adult kids with disabilities. But is this financial support always a good idea? A certified financial planner and a therapist who both have experience in this department share their thoughts.

**WHY PARENTS SUPPORT ADULT KIDS**

There are many reasons a parent may choose to support their adult kids. Disabilities and wanting to help them achieve major life milestones are a couple. Shelmeshia Hill-Brown, the CEO of Wholistic Resolutions LLC in Chesapeake, Virginia, is a social worker and therapist who works with parents who financially support their adult kids. A major theme she sees is parents helping pay for school, especially since the pandemic. Buying a home and exploring infertility treatments are other rea-

sons her clients financially support their kids.

While some parents offer financial support because they want to, others feel obligated even when it's financially inconvenient. Sometimes, the obligation stems from guilt of not preparing their kids for financial independence early on, Hill-Brown says. "They didn't do that one-on-one time with them, to sit down and actually teach them," she says. "But a lot of that also stemmed from, it never (being) done with them, as well, so they were learning along the way, and it made it a little bit more challenging to sit down and come up with a plan to implement with their own children."

**RISKS OF SUPPORTING ADULT CHILDREN**

Supporting your kids can be satisfying, but it also may be detrimental if you're not financially secure. It also can affect retirement savings, which many Americans already have concerns about. Fidelity's 2023 Retirement Savings Assessment tells us 52% of American households may not be able to cover essential expenses

in retirement. And roughly 50% even plan to work during retirement. □



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- WK 7 and 14 - all views

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# How the multiverse got into our heads and didn't let go

By **TED ANTHONY**  
AP National Writer

"Let's do things differently this time."

Those are the first words you hear in this month's "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse," an otherworldly meditation on multiple realities. The message is clear from the get-go: We have choices. You are you, sure. But wait you might also be you and you and you.

The world is a stressful, sometimes lonely place. But what if things could turn out another way? What if, somewhere, they had? Enter the realm of the multiverse and alternate realities, one of the most glorified pop culture canvases and a repository for the ache and longing of living in an era of uncertainty.

"The cultural assumption used to be that the world we live in is the way it is, and that's the only way it could be," says Douglas Wolk, who read 27,000 Marvel comics for his book, "All of the Marvels."

"What has happened in culture," Wolk says, "is that people are saying, 'Well, no. This consensus reality is not how things have to be.'"

The notion of exploring life's twists and turns through alternate timelines has been around for a while, albeit in varying guises.

"It's a Wonderful Life" sent George Bailey tumbling into a timeline where he'd never been born to reveal his true impact. In the decades since, that notion



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Ezra Miller, from left, Michael Keaton and Ezra Miller in a scene from "The Flash."

has accelerated a rise in stories that consider events both fictional and real, extrapolating different choices.

What if the South had won the Civil War ("CSA: The Confederate States of America")? What if Germany and Japan had won World War II ("The Man in the High Castle")? What if John F. Kennedy hadn't been assassinated ("11/22/63")?

Fictional worlds are more malleable. Imaginary characters particularly beloved ones with established stories are toyed with in books, TV shows and movies that airlift them out of one life and into another. It's a canvas that cuts across genres, from rom-com (1998's "Sliding Doors") to near-musical (2019's Beatles jukebox "Yesterday").

You have the reality where

Spider-Man never married M.J. (Marvel Comics' "Brand New Day"); the universe where a Ben Affleck Batman never existed but the Michael Keaton Batman stuck around and got old ("The Flash"); and the "mirror universe" of "Star Trek" that reveals the baser instincts of beloved characters.

"It's a way to explore a problem that's never actually happened in the main story," sums up Nic Lemire, a California teenager who co-hosts the occasional "Marvel Mondays" podcast with his mother (a former Associated Press film critic).

One crowning example of multiverse success: The Oscar-sweeping "Everything Everywhere All at Once," which showed all the different lives Michelle Yeoh's main character might have

lived with the point being that across the multiverse, her family remains a family. These works are united by one theme: There are always possibilities, for better and for worse, and exploring them is entertaining, enlightening and escapist. That's no small thing in a post-COVID world where convulsive change can seem the only constant.

"We're bombarded with things that seem arbitrary, random," says Hannah Kim, an assistant professor of philosophy at Macalester College.

"The number of difficult developments the past few years the pandemic, political upheaval, effects of climate change, etc. leave the anxiety-riddled person with the nagging feeling that this all could have been otherwise."

Exploring the question of

"what if" continues to be lucrative — there's even an entire Marvel show called "What If...?" While multiple universes may start to feel spread thin as a plot device, the trope isn't going away.

After all, if you can remix popular characters while retaining the potential for a reset in a "prime universe," what is there to lose? Well, there's this: If everything is reversible, how high can the stakes really be?

"It narratively lets you have your cake and eat it too you can kill off the character, have an emotional death scene and then bring the character back from another universe," says Matt Ruff, whose 9/11 novel, "The Mirage," posits an alternate universe that flips aggressors, victims and prejudices.

"If everything's possible, the choices are less interesting. The consequences don't matter all that much," Ruff says. "Part of engaging in the real world is engaging with the fact that there's no magical solution."

That, though, may be precisely why the notion resonates. Humans have always wanted to try on other outfits, other outcomes, other lives. Technology has enabled people to obtain most anything from the world's bounty within 48 hours.

So why not thousands of stories with thousands of possible endings? What does that do to our relationship with our stories? □

Associated Press



Haitian-American author Edwidge Danticat appears in the Little Haiti neighborhood of Miami on Oct. 18, 2010.

Associated Press

## Edwidge Danticat wins PEN/Malamud prize for lifetime achievement

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Edwidge Danticat is this year's winner of the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in the Short Story, a lifetime achievement honor named for the late writer Bernard Malamud.

Danticat, a Haitian-American author who writes often about memory and identity, is known for her

novel-in-stories.

"The Dew Breaker" and for such collections as "Krik? Krak!" and "Everything Inside," which in 2020 won the Story Prize for outstanding short fiction.

"Many of my short stories pay homage to the oral tradition I was steeped in as a child in Haiti and as an immigrant in the United

States," Danticat, 54, said in a statement this week.

"The short story has also been a unique space for me to experiment, explore, and grow as a storyteller, which makes this award even more gratifying."

Previous winners of the Malamud prize include George Saunders, Jhumpa Lahiri and Yiyun Li. □

## McIlroy is going on 9 years without a major and the questions won't stop

By DOUG FERGUSON  
AP Golf Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The only thing worse for players than getting asked about winning their first major are endless questions about when they will win another one.

That's what Rory McIlroy is facing.

The scrutiny no longer is limited to the spring, with Augusta National on the horizon and the reminder that a Masters green jacket is all that keeps McIlroy from the career Grand Slam. Any major will suffice at this point.

And about the only answer is what Wyndham Clark offered not long after the tears, the hugs and the hoisting of the U.S. Open trophy. "I just feel like it was my time," Clark said. Sometimes there's no better explanation.

Clark never had to face the "when" question because he earned his first PGA Tour victory only six weeks ago, and because the U.S. Open was only the seventh major he had ever played. He showed big game at Los Angeles Country Club, from the par saves around the turn to his deft touch with a wedge and putter over the last two holes to preserve his one-shot win over McIlroy. Perhaps five years from now it won't seem like such



Rory McIlroy hits from the fairway on the second hole during the final round of the U.S. Open golf tournament at Los Angeles Country Club on Sunday, June 18, 2023, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

a surprise, at least for Clark. Tiger Woods never faced those questions, either. Much of those 11 years between his 14th and 15th major was more about when he would play than when he would win.

Woods had reconstructive knee surgery and four back operations. McIlroy missed one major after hurting his knee playing soccer.

McIlroy is a massive talent, and so it's reasonable to at least consider whether a four-time major champion has underachieved. Worth noting is winning majors has

become tougher than ever as golf gets deeper and younger. Of the 33 majors McIlroy has played since his last win, 21 of those winners were younger than him.

More alarming is not that McIlroy failed to win Sunday, rather that he has given himself so few chances over the last nine years.

Since his last major title in near darkness at Valhalla in 2014 at the PGA Championship, he has played in the final group only twice he was three behind Patrick Reed in the 2018 Masters and tied with Viktor

Hovland last year at St. Andrews in the British Open.

Los Angeles allowed for natural comparisons with St. Andrews. It's not so much what McIlroy did wrong as what he failed to do make putts. He hit all 18 greens and took 36 putts in the British Open. He didn't make a putt longer than 7 feet over the final 33 holes of the U.S. Open.

The final day at LACC wasn't quite that bad, but it wasn't great. McIlroy had 16 pars, one bogey and one birdie. That's a round that often wins a U.S. Open.

It's just that this Open featured two 62s and a 63 before the week was over. McIlroy didn't make a birdie over the last 17 holes.

There wasn't much left for him when he finished but to hope for Clark to three-putt yes, he was hoping for such an outcome because it was all he had and when that 60-foot putt settled a foot next to the hole, McIlroy didn't bother to stick around in the scoring trailer to watch him finish.

"As soon as he cozied it up there, I was like, 'OK, get through this, and then go home and regroup,'" he said. By "get through this," that would be mean a brief inquisition. He knew what was coming. What happened? How come?

**What's next?**

**When?**

The next chance the last chance this year was 32 days away from when McIlroy signed for an even-par 70. The British Open is at Royal Liverpool, where McIlroy won the claret jug in 2014 when he took a six-shot lead into the final day and was never seriously challenged.

**That was his time.**

Sunday at LACC was not, just like so many others, some of them recent. He was tied for the lead at the Memorial and shot 75 to finish four back. □

## Running back Sony Michel re-signs with the Los Angeles Rams



Los Angeles Rams running back Sony Michel (25) is tackled by Baltimore Ravens cornerback Jimmy Smith (22) during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

**THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP)** — The Los Angeles Rams have re-signed running back Sony Michel, a member of their Super Bowl championship team.

The Rams announced their reunion Tuesday with Michel, a two-time Super Bowl winner and five-year NFL veteran.

Michel rushed for 845 yards and four touchdowns while also catching 21 passes during the 2021-22 season for the Rams, who acquired him from New England in a preseason trade. He add-

ed 78 yards rushing in the postseason as Los Angeles won the Super Bowl at its own SoFi Stadium in February 2022.

Michel spent the ensuing offseason with the Dolphins before Miami cut him last August. He then signed with the Los Angeles Chargers and rushed for 106 yards as a backup to Austin Ekeler. Michel spent his first three NFL seasons with the Patriots, and he rushed for a career-high 931 yards as a rookie on New England's 2018-19 champion-

ship team. He rushed for six postseason touchdowns as a rookie, including the only touchdown in the Pats' 13-3 Super Bowl victory over the Rams.

Michel joins a running back group with the rebuilding Rams including starter Cam Akers, second-year pro Kyren Williams and rookie sixth-round pick Zach Evans.

Michel is the sixth Georgia product on the Rams' current roster, joining quarterbacks Matthew Stafford and Stetson Bennett. □

## Billie Jean King recalls the meeting that launched the WTA 50 years ago

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**  
AP Tennis Writer

A half-century later, Billie Jean King thinks back on the landmark gathering of female tennis players at a London hotel shortly before they competed at Wimbledon and acknowledges she wasn't sure how things would go that day.

"I had no idea. Absolute toss-up. Because you never really know. What I did know was that certain players didn't like what we were trying to do," King said in an interview with The Associated Press. "And I did know it had to happen that day. Had to."

Wednesday marks the 50th anniversary of the meeting on June 21, 1973, at the Gloucester Hotel about a mile south of Hyde Park in the heart of the British capital where King and nearly 60 other players agreed to form what today is known as the Women's Tennis Association or WTA. They paved the way for their sport, and women's sports in general, to grow.

A reunion at that same hotel on June 30 is planned, with King, a twice-inducted member of the International Tennis Hall of Fame and an equal rights advocate, along with a dozen or so other founding members of the WTA, such as Rosie Casals, Betty Stöve, Françoise Dürr and Ingrid Löfdahl-Bentzer.



Members of the original nine women who helped start the Women's Tennis Association from left to right, Billie Jean King, Peaches Bartkowicz, Kristy Pigeon, Valerie Ziegenfuss, Judy Tegart Dalton, Julie Heldman, Kerry Melville Reid, Nancy Richey and Rosie Casals, are honored at the Family Circle Cup tennis tournament in Charleston, S.C., April 7, 2012.

Associated Press

What memory stands out the most for King from that historic occasion?

"Standing at that podium and telling them, 'This is it. We have to do this. I'm not going to spend any more time on it if we don't make it happen now. But I know we're going to make it.' I said, 'This is our moment of truth. It's probably the most important decision we're ever going to make for our sport. So let's get it right,'" King recounted, rapping her right palm on a table. "I kept saying, 'We have to do this. We've got to be together.'" It was the beginning of what King said

she kept referring to at the time as a "union," but what her lawyer kept reminding her was more properly referred to as an "association," bringing all women's professional tennis players under one umbrella.

"It was difficult to get everybody to feel as if they could commit and not worry about being penalized. They looked upon us to lead them the right way and we did," Casals said in a telephone interview.

"We hoped we had done the job by convincing the women they had to be there. Some of them hemmed and hawed, but

eventually they joined."

The group's name initially was the Women's International Tennis Association, but King jokes now that she insisted: "Let's not do more than three letters, please. I can't remember it if there are too many letters. Can we just do three?" Eventually, it was shortened.

Before what turned into a successful vote to move forward with the effort, King asked Stöve a Dutch player who won 10 Grand Slam titles in women's or mixed doubles and later served three terms as WTA president to block the conference room's exit.

"I had Betty back there. I said, 'Don't let anybody out until we have an association,'" King said. "But nobody left. Not one person even got up. It was amazing. We had their attention." King was elected president, Virginia Wade was chosen vice president, Lesley Hunt was assistant vice president, Dürr and Löfdahl Bentzer were co-secretaries, Stöve was treasurer, and Casals chaired a committee to examine the rankings system.

This was nearly three years after the Original 9 group of King, Casals and seven other female players Peaches Bartkowicz, Judy Dalton, Julie Heldman, Kerry Melville Reid, Kristy Pigeon, Nancy Richey and Valerie Ziegenfuss signed \$1 contracts with World Tennis Magazine publisher Gladys Heldman on Sept. 23, 1970, to participate in the first women-only tennis tournament.

That set the stage for the Virginia Slims circuit and, eventually, the WTA.

"Probably the two happiest days of my life my tennis life, not my real life were the Original 9 and the WTA," said King, whose 39 Grand Slam trophies include 12 in singles.

"To get people to change. To get people to be together. To get people to have one voice and have power." □

## Mystery solved? Wembanyama listed at 7-foot-4, but check back later in September



Boulogne-Levallois' Victor Wembanyama dunks the ball in action during the playoffs of the Elite basketball match Boulogne-Levallois against Monaco at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Thursday, June 15, 2023.

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The tall task of determining Victor Wembanyama's height isn't finished yet.

The expected No. 1 pick in the NBA draft might be 7-foot-4. Maybe not, though. While the league is listing him at that height in the draft guide on its media website, it's not official. Check back in September. That's the deadline for the San Antonio Spurs assuming they take Wembanyama with the first pick as expected Thursday night

to submit an official height for him without shoes to the league.

Wembanyama's height listed in the draft guide falls in the middle of conflicting reports about how tall the Frenchman is. It's not official, however, because Wembanyama didn't attend the NBA Draft Combine in May, where prospects are measured.

Wembanyama, who arrived in New York on Monday and was scheduled to throw out the first pitch

before a Yankees game on Tuesday, said he was 7-3 in October during his French pro team's exhibition games in Las Vegas. But, at just 19 years old, it's possible he wasn't done growing by then.

That would explain why an internet search of his height turns up everything from 7-2 to 7-5.

Not that it really matters to the Spurs, who will likely be the first to know for sure just how tall Wembanyama is. □